

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND, CANCEL and ADD claims in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A file management method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

analyzing a mail software folder configuration created on mail software ~~in order to~~ obtain information regarding the mail software folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary;

creating ~~the same a~~ file system folder configuration same as the analyzed mail software folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents, based upon ~~on the basis of the obtained information obtained by the analysis of the mail software folder configuration created on the mail software~~; and

performing file management by executing filing processing for the created file system folder configuration, wherein

the analysis of the mail software folder configuration is performed at ~~the a~~ time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests, and

when the mail software folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the file system folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A file management method according to claim 1, wherein

mail data items are obtained from the mail software and are stored in corresponding folders created in the file system and mail data and other files are managed in the file system under a same environment.

4. (Original) A file management method according to claim 1, wherein when a file is stored in a folder in the file system, a mail including information regarding a link to the file, detailed information of the file, and the file itself is transmitted to a mail address of a user, whereby the file is managed on the mail software.

5. (currently amended) A file management method according to claim 1, wherein the mail software folder configuration of the mail software is created on two or more storage units.

6. (Original) A file management method according to claim 5, wherein image data read by use of a scanner are simultaneously stored in the two or more storage units.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, the program executing:
analyzing a mail software folder configuration created on mail software in order to obtain information regarding the mail software folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary;

creating ~~the same~~ a file system folder configuration same as the analyzed mail software folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents, ~~on the basis of~~ based upon the obtained information obtained by the analysis of the mail software folder configuration created on the mail software; and

performing file management by executing filing processing for the created file system folder configuration, wherein

the analysis of the mail software folder configuration is performed at the time of startup of the file management software, regularly, or upon user's requests, and

when the mail software folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the file system folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.

9. (currently amended) A method for reading and filing documents by use of file management software, comprising:

analyzing, at ~~the~~ a time of startup of the file management software, a mail software folder configuration created on mail software ~~in order to~~ obtain information regarding the mail software folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary; and

creating ~~the same~~ a file system folder configuration same as the analyzed mail software folder configuration in a file system that reads documents by use of a scanner and files the documents, based upon ~~on the basis of the obtained information obtained by the analysis of the mail software folder configuration created on the mail software,~~ wherein

when the mail software folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the file system folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.

10. (new) A file management system reading and filing documents by use of the file management software, comprising:

a computer central processing unit (CPU)

analyzing a mail software folder configuration created on mail software to obtain information regarding the mail software folder configuration and creating a scanned data folder accessible by the mail software, if necessary;

creating a file system folder configuration same as the analyzed mail software folder configuration in a file system that is shared by the mail software and that reads documents by use of a scanner, copies those documents into the scanned data folder and files the documents, based upon the information obtained by the analysis of the mail software folder configuration created on the mail software; and

performing file management by executing filing processing for the created file system folder configuration, wherein

the analysis of the mail software folder configuration is performed at a time of startup of the file management software, and

when the mail software folder configuration of the mail software differs from that of the file system, the file system folder configuration of the file system is updated to match that of the mail software.